



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAIRO, INDEPENDENCE, GRANDVIEW, AND KC, MO., FELONS INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that five defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms.

* **Kevin D. Hilke**, 40, of Cairo, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Hilke** was in possession of a Lorcin .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol and one live round of Smith and Wesson .32 caliber ammunition on Jan. 17, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Hilke** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for forgery, two 1992 criminal felony convictions for burglary and involuntary manslaughter, three 1989 criminal felony convictions for driving while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident, a 1984 criminal felony conviction for forgery and three 1982 criminal felony convictions for assault and stealing.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela C. Hasty. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Independence, Mo., Police Department.

* **Donald D. Lawrence**, 39, of Independence, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of several firearms in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Lawrence** was in possession of a Ruger Security Six .357 caliber revolver, a Ruger New Model Single Six .22 caliber revolver, a Remington semi-automatic 12 gauge shotgun, a J. Stevens .22 caliber rifle, a Remington .22 caliber rifle and a

Marlin 30/30 Winchester rifle on Jan. 20, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Lawrence** has two 1989 criminal felony convictions for tampering with utilities and receiving stolen property. He also has 1982 criminal felony convictions robbery, burglary, stealing and tampering with utilities.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Darcey A. Harper**, 46, of Grandview, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of several firearms in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Harper** was in possession of an Iver Johnson .30 caliber carbine rifle, a Titan .25 caliber pistol and a Mercury .22 caliber pistol on Jan. 22, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Harper** has a 1995 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance and a 1989 criminal felony conviction for inflicting corporal punishment.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda L. Sybrant. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Keenan R. Hart**, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Hart** was in possession of a Taurus 9 mm semi-automatic handgun on Jan. 12, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Hart** has two 1990 criminal felony convictions for trafficking drugs and being a felon in possession of a firearm. He also has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for trafficking drugs.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Michael J. Brown**, 22, of Independence, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Brown** was in possession of an Enfield Model 303 rifle on Jan. 8, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Brown** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for distributing, delivering and manufacturing a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela C. Hasty. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow